Class V should be opened in the Changanachery Mahomedan school as the pupils passing the fourth class examination could not at present pursue their studies. This was due to the fact that there were no Arabic *Munshies* in the neighbouring schools.

The population of the Changanachery town was 19,000 of which 3,000 were Mahomedans who were distributed among the six wards of the town. The result was that no Mahomedan could be returned at the municipal elections. At least two members from the Mahomedan community should therefore be nominated to the Council by the Government.

The proposal to invest the Changanachery Munsiff with magisterial powers should be carried out soon. A qualified lady doctor should be appointed to the Changanachery hospital without delay.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Navurukani Rowther, in the matter of representation of Mahomedans on the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, I do not think there is any just cause to accuse the Government of want of consideration. There are in all six Mahomedans on this Assembly and I trust you will concede that that is a very fair representation. The Government nominated four members on this occasion as on the last occasion and it is not possible to increase the number of nominations. The Government most earnestly hope that more of your community will be able to get in by election as time goes on.

2. You ask for the appointment of a Mahomedan High Court Judge. Let me assure you that no distinguished Mahomedan lawyer, no vakil or barrister of your community with outstanding merits, who may be practising in Travancore, will be excluded from a seat on the High Court Bench simply because he is a Mahomedan.

3. You refer to the pay of Arabic *Munshies*. Compared with the pay of the Vernacular school teachers, the Arabic *Munshies* have no serious cause of complaint. The rate of pay of the Arabic *Munshies* is Rs. 14, Rs. 18 and Rs. 25 and so on to Rs. 40 and then to Rs. 45 a month. Any increase of pay must wait until such time as Government are in a position to undertake the general enhancement of pay of the Vernacular school teachers all round.

4. You refer to the question of the Mahomedan Girls' School at Changanachery. If you go back to the history of that proposal, you will find that the Government were ready and willing to establish such an institution if the Mahomedans of Changanachery came forward with a site and building, and also to give a building grant. The large Mahomedan population of Changanachery was to consider the putting up of a building at a public meeting of your community to be held on the 15th November, 1925. The Government await the report of that meeting.

5. In the matter of the Municipal Council of Changanachery, the membership is 19. Of these, 13 are elected members and 3 are Government officials. That leaves 3 seats to which alone Government could make nomination from non-officials and the Government have invariably nominated one Mahomedan. These figures will show you that there was no question of unfairness of treatment in the representation of Mahomedans on the Municipal Council.

6. You ask for a qualified woman Surgeon in the District Hospital at Changanachery. I shall ask the Administrative Board, Medical Services, to consider this and report to the Government at an early date.

7. The other points in your representation will all receive careful attention.

152. Needs of the Mahomedan community.

MR. SULTAN MOHIDEEN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Mahomedan community was very backward in point of education in comparison with other communities. More scholarships should be made available to Mahomedan students. They should also be given foreign scholarships for technical and industrial education. More important than all these was the education of the boys and girls. The order of the Government to appoint Arabic *Munshies* in all schools where there were 25 students at least was not carried out strictly. In primary schools the Arabic tongue was taught either before or after the school hours. This was a source of

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great inconvenience and should be put a stop to. Some unimportant subjects might give place to Arabic study. The pay of Arabic *Munshies* should be enhanced. In grant-in-aid schools also there should be separate *Munshies* for the teaching of Arabic and for that purpose additional grants should be given. The practice of giving tuition in Arabic to the pupils of two standards together should be discontinued. The minimum number of pupils required for a Mahomedan school to be supported by a grant should be lowered to twenty. The Mahomedan Inspector of Schools should be placed in sole charge of everything concerning Arabic instruction in Mahomedan Schools. His pay and status should also be raised at least to those of a Headmaster of an English High School.

The Mahomedan community should be represented in the service in proportion to its population in the State although it was entitled to larger representation. Even though the Government proclaimed their policy to give special consideration to Mahomedans in the service, in practice very little was done. Even their just claims had not been considered. That there were not duly qualified candidates was a baseless excuse which the heads of departments put forward. G. O. No. 458, dated the 27th April 1925, would make this clear. The heads of departments who did not act up to the orders of the Government in the matter of making appointments had not yet furnished their explanations for default. In British India, special consideration was given in the service to communities which were backward in education. But in Travancore the number of qualified young men of the community who could not secure a place in the Government service was not small. Even those who had been fortunate to be employed in the service were not adequately encouraged by giving them suitable promotions. In the present state of the community, even those who were not fully qualified for a post should be appointed. Mahomedan non-graduates could, without detriment to the efficiency of the service, be appointed to certain posts in the Excise and the Police Departments. There was no efficient professor in the Law College for teaching Mahomedan law. Mr. Habeeb Mahomed who had the necessary qualification for the post could very well be appointed. So far as Mr. Habeeb Mahomed was concerned, it was only a just claim. The Mahomedan community should have at least its due share of appointments in the service. It was entitled to 7 per cent. of the posts in the State service, high and low, in view of its population strength.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Sultan Mohideen, most of the points you have taken up have already been touched upon in the representations and replies that have been made to-day.

2. The only point I need specially take up is your advocacy of the claims of an individual whom you named more than once. In respect of that, I bring it to your notice, with all the emphasis I am capable of, that this serious Assembly is not an employment agency and that its Members are not recruiting sergeants. I regret I cannot consider the recommendation of any named individual to any particular appointment by any Member of this Assembly.

153. Grievances of Arasars, Bharatars, and other coast-men.

MR. C. M. SWAMINATHA PILLAI (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Tamilian Arasars, Bharatars, and other people inhabiting the coast stood largely in need of building sites and the Government should kindly grant them the necessary sites on concessional terms. They were suffering untold hardships due to scarcity of good drinking water. Wells and tanks should therefore be sunk in their villages at suitable centres. The canal which was now traced to pass through their villages should be completed without delay. Fishing was the main occupation of these people. With the enhancement of export duty on fish, their industry had received a set-back, and they were suffering badly under it. It should be lowered. The coast road from the Cape to Colachel should be completed. At present, only for a distance of five miles, *i. e.*, from Chempakaramanputtanturai as far as Rajakkamangalam there was no road. It was this section of the road which required completion. The people were prepared to surrender lands without compensation for the construction of the road, if so required. A short branch road to a distance of three quarters of a mile from Manavalakurichi market to Katiapattanam should also be constructed without delay.

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